

## **Mitigating Natural Hazards: The New York State Approach**

This paper focuses on the New York State's approach to mitigating natural hazards. The state's key mitigation programs include Local Mitigation Coordinators Conferences, Partnership Programs, Grant Programs and Community Mitigation Planning.

Today, there are 58 Local Mitigation Coordinators in the State. The first Statewide Mitigation Coordinators Conference was convened in Albany, the State Capital in Spring 1997.

Partnership is at the heart of the following programs. The Protecting Home and Family program (PHF) is designed to promote hazard resistant construction. The vision, mission, goals, objectives and selected strategies of PHF are addressed in a Strategic Plan. The Hazard Awareness and Risk Reduction program focuses on increasing the awareness of local chief elected officials and their professional staff on hazards and risk reduction strategies. The Joint Loss Reduction Partnership Program emphasizes disaster preparedness planning, training, and facility mitigation.

SEMO administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program. These programs promote hazard resistant construction. Finally, SEMO's mitigation staff provides technical assistance to communities for the preparation of hazard mitigation plans. The action plan components of these plans all include actions to ensure more hazard resistant construction. Building code enforcement is stressed.